

REMARKS

The Office Action of February 12, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The present Amendment revises the title of the invention.

The present Amendment also revises the claims in response to the objections in section 2 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the revisions overcome the objections. The Amendment also makes additional changes in the claims to further adopt them to US claim-drafting practice.

Additionally, the present Amendment cancels depend claim 2 and transfers its subject matter (in somewhat modified form) to independent claim 1. As a result, claim 1 now provides that "a ratio in capacitance of the positive-side inductor to the negative-side inductor is a reciprocal number of a ratio in capacitance of the positive-side capacitor to the negative-side capacitor."

Finally, the present Amendment adds new claims 6-17 to further protect the invention. Claim 6 is independent, and the rest of the new claims are dependent.

The Office Action rejects the original claims for anticipation by either US patent 6,144,565 to Lethellier or US patent 4,635,275 to Probst. For the reasons discussed below, however, it is respectfully submitted that the inventions defined by independent claims 1 and 6 are neither disclosed by these references nor suggested by them.

The Office Action draws attention to Figures 4-8 of Lethellier, which show inductors L_1 and L_4 and capacitors C_3 and C_4 in series with the inductors. However, the reference does not disclose or suggest that the ratio of the inductors and the ratio of the capacitors have the relationship that is now recited in claim 1. Similarly, new independent claim 6 recites that " L_1/L_2 is substantially the same as C_2/C_1 ." This is not disclosed or suggested by Lethellier.

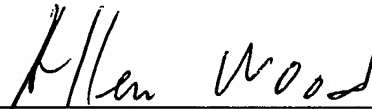
Turning now to the Probst reference, the Office Action draws attention to Figures 2 and 3. But Probst, like Lethellier, neither discloses nor suggests the relationship specified in claims 1 and 6 between the ratio of the inductors and the ratio of the capacitors.

It should also be noted that a salient difference exists between the power supply apparatus disclosed in the present application and the Probst reference that is not readily apparent. In Probst's Figure 2, L3 is electromagnetically coupled to L4, and L5 is electromagnetically coupled to L6 (column 4, lines 62-66 of Probst). The reference specifies winding structures for the inductors (column 5, lines 1-11). In the apparatus disclosed in the present application, in contrast, the inductors L1 and L2 in Figure 1 do not need to be coupled with other coils. They can exist alone. As for the inductor L3 in Figure 1, it is part of the smoothing circuit and does not need to be coupled with inductor L1. As a result, the inductors L3 and L5 in Probst are different from the inductors L1 and L2 in Figure 1 of the present application.

The remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention. They are therefore patentable along with their independent claims and need not be further discussed.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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